

# Metropolitan Transportation Commission Programming and Allocations Committee

July 12, 2006

Item Number 5c

## Resolution Nos. 3771 and 3761, Revised

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**Subject:** Transit Connectivity Funding Plan  
FY 2006-07 State Transit Assistance (STA) Regional Discretionary Program  
Free Transit on Spare-the-Air Days

**Background:** 1. In April 2006, MTC adopted a Transit Connectivity Plan and incorporated its findings into the SB1474 Transit Coordination Implementation Plan (Resolution No. 3055, Revised), as required by State law. However, approval of a financial plan that identifies implementation responsibility and funding sources for the plan was deferred pending further discussion with the Partnership Board. While the majority of Partnership Board members endorsed the financial plan at its June 2006 meeting, a few members did not due to concerns about funding additional regional programs, and questions as to whether addressing transit connectivity was the best use of limited resources. In response, staff proposed to cap the capital costs identified in the recommended financial plan and to return to the Partnership for additional discussion if the costs exceed this cap. The Partnership Board approved the financial plan subject to this condition.

Resolution No. 3771 establishes the funding plan and commits MTC's STA Regional Discretionary Program funds to pay for the regional share of program costs – all of the initial capital costs and a portion of on-going maintenance and capital replacement costs. Transit operators will use their own funds to cover their share of program costs primarily related to annual maintenance and replacement. Costs over a 10-year period are estimated to be \$23.5 million, with a regional share of 60% and a local share of 40%. The cost per operator is a small fraction of each affected agency's operating budget.

Regional costs include:

- One-time capital costs for wayfinding signage, real-time information displays and regional transit information cases (RTICs);
  - Annual replacement costs for real-time information displays; and
  - Annual maintenance of RTICs.
- Transit operator costs include:
- Annual maintenance and replacement of wayfinding signage; and
  - Annual maintenance of real-time information displays.

2. Resolution No. 3761, Revised amends the FY 2006-07 STA Regional Discretionary Program to add \$2.9 million for Transit Connectivity

projects. The majority of funds (\$2.5 million) is programmed to improve wayfinding signage, real-time information displays and regional transit information cases (RTICs) at regional transit hubs. Funds will also be used to improve maintenance of transit information in the RTICs (\$175,000) and support distribution of regional transit information at regional transit hubs (\$100,000). The balance of funds (\$75,000) will pay for initial performance reviews of regional transit hubs to assess compliance with the connectivity requirements and guidelines identified in the Transit Connectivity Plan and incorporated in the SB 1474 Transit Coordination Implementation Plan. Based on performance review findings, staff will return to this Committee (or follow delegated authority provisions, as appropriate) to request allocations totaling the \$2.5 million in programmed funds for wayfinding signage, real-time information displays and RTICs. Further, staff expects to return in FY 2007-08 with additional fund allocations consistent with the Transit Connectivity funding plan.

3. In addition, Resolution No. 3761, Revised programs \$5.4 million in STA funds to MTC to fund up to three additional days of free transit on Spare-the-Air days during the summer 2006 ozone season. A full description of the staff recommendation is provided in the Administration Committee packet of July 12, 2006.

**Issues:** None

**Recommendation:** Refer MTC Resolution Nos. 3771 and 3761, Revised to the Commission for approval.

**Attachments:** MTC Resolution No. 3771  
MTC Resolution No. 3761, Revised

Date: July 26, 2006  
W.I.: 1152  
Referred by: PAC

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 3771

This resolution establishes a funding plan to implement transit connectivity improvements and commits MTC's STA Regional Discretionary funds to fund the regional share of transit connectivity costs.

Further discussion of this program is contained in the Programming & Allocations Committee Summary Sheet dated July 12, 2006.

Date: July 26, 2006  
W.I.: 1152  
Referred by: PAC

RE: Funding Plan for the Transit Connectivity Plan

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION NO. 3771

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is the regional transportation planning agency for the San Francisco Bay Area pursuant to Government Code Section 66500 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, MTC has adopted a Transit Coordination Implementation Plan pursuant to Government Code Section 66516.5 which identifies a number of projects to be implemented by MTC and the region's transit agencies to improve coordination of services; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2004, voters approved Regional Measure 2, which increased the toll for all vehicles on the nine State-owned toll bridges in the San Francisco Bay Area by \$1.00, with this extra dollar funding various transportation projects within the region that have been determined to reduce congestion or to make improvements to travel in the toll bridge corridors, as identified in SB 916 (Chapter 715, Statutes of 2004), commonly referred as Regional Measure 2 ("RM 2"); and

WHEREAS, RM2 required MTC to adopt a regional transit connectivity plan to improve connections between transit operators at regional transfer hubs; and

WHEREAS, MTC approved Resolution 3055, Revised, which adopted the Transit Connectivity Study and incorporated its findings and recommendations into MTC's Transit Coordination Implementation Plan, but deferred approval of a funding plan pending further discussion with the Partnership Board; and

WHEREAS, MTC, in consultation with the Bay Area Partnership, developed a funding plan to identify implementation responsibility and funding sources for each of the transit connectivity improvements; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, MTC adopts the funding plan as identified in Attachment A to this resolution, attached hereto, and incorporated herein; and be it further

RESOLVED, MTC commits STA Regional Discretionary funds to pay for the regional share of costs associated with transit connectivity improvements.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Jon Rubin, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a regular meeting of the Commission held in Oakland, California on July 26, 2006.

Date: July 26, 2006  
W.I.: 1152  
Referred by: PAC

Attachment A  
MTC Resolution No. 3771

### Transit Connectivity Program Costs and Funding Principles

Program Element	Activity	Estimated Cost (\$000)	Funding	
			Regional	Operators
Wayfinding Signage	• Purchase and installation (inc. spares)	\$7,200	X	
	• Annual maintenance and lifecycle replacement	\$680		X
Transit Information Displays	• Install displays and graphics	\$767	X	
	• Maintain current and new equipment	\$177	X	
511/Real-Time Displays	• Purchase and install display signs at priority hubs	\$2,086	X	
	• Annual maintenance - data - info updates/service disruptions to phone system - 511 on websites/printed materials/bus stops-vehicles	\$254		X
	• Annual Lifecycle Replacement	\$240	X	
TOTALS	• Capital One-Time Costs	\$10,053		
	• Annual Maintenance/Replacement Costs	\$1,351		

Date: May 24, 2006  
W.I.: 1152  
Referred by: PAC  
Revised: 06/28/06-C  
07/26/06-C

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 3761, Revised

This resolution establishes a one-year program for Fiscal Year 2006-07 for MTC's State Transit Assistance (STA) Regional Discretionary funds.

This resolution was revised on June 28, 2006 to amend the STA program.

This resolution was revised on July 26, 2006 to add funds for implementation of the Transit Connectivity Plan pursuant to Resolution No. 3771 and for three additional days of free transit on Spare-the-Air days.

Further discussion of this program is contained in the Programming & Allocations Committee Summary Sheets dated May 10, 2006, June 14, 2006, and July 12, 2006.

Date: May 24, 2006  
W.I.: 1152  
Referred by: PAC  
Revised: 06/28/06-C  
07/26/06-C

Attachment A  
Resolution No. 3761  
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## STA Regional Discretionary Program FY 2006-07

<b>Funding Availability</b>	<b>Amount</b>
FY 2006-07 STA Fund Estimate***	\$60,595,674

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Claimant</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Transit Connectivity**	TBD	\$2,500,000
Transit Connectivity**	AC Transit	\$175,000
Transit Connectivity**	MTC	\$175,000
Free Transit on Spare-the-Air Days**	MTC	\$5,400,000
TransLink® *	MTC	\$5,835,000
TransLink®	GGT	\$82,000
TransLink®	TBD/Various Operators	\$1,200,000
Regional Coordination Support	MTC	\$1,601,000
Regional Transit Information System	MTC	\$497,000
Regional Transportation Marketing	MTC	\$39,000
Regional Operations Support Contingency	MTC	\$483,000
Regional Paratransit Program	MTC	\$75,000
Transit Coordination Project Audits	MTC	\$200,000
Transit Capital Inventory/Asset Tool	MTC	\$150,000
Regional Transit Demographic Study	MTC	\$100,000
Facilitation and General Planning Studies	TBD	\$150,000
Legislative Consultant	MTC	\$197,000
Lifeline Transportation Program	TBD/Various Operators	\$6,570,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$25,429,000</b>

<b>STA Balance Estimate</b>	<b>\$35,166,674</b>
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\*\*\* FY2006-07 Fund Estimate revised per July 26, 2006 revision to include STA funds enacted in FY2006-07 State budget.

\*\* Program was revised on July 26, 2006 to program \$2,500,000 to yet-to-be-determined project sponsors for initial capital investments in wayfinding signage, real-time displays and Regional Transit Information Cases (RTICs), up to \$175,000 to AC Transit for RTIC maintenance, \$75,000 to MTC for Transit Connectivity performance reviews and monitoring, and \$100,000 to MTC for distribution of transit information at regional transit hubs. In addition, \$5,400,000 was programmed to MTC for up to three additional Spare-the-Air free transit days.

\* Program was revised on June 28, 2006 to program an additional \$5,000,000 in STA funds for TransLink® operations in FY 2006/07.



Date: May 24, 2006  
W.I.: 1152  
Referred by: PAC  
Revised: 06/28/06-C  
07/26/06-C

Attachment B  
Resolution No. 3761  
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## **STA Regional Discretionary Program Summary FY 2006-07**

STA Regional Discretionary Funds have historically supported some of MTC's regional operations projects as well as other planning and operational efforts to improve coordination of, and access to, transit services in the Bay Area. Many of these projects have been identified in the Commission's SB 1474 Transit Coordination Implementation Plan. Specific SB 1474 plan goals include: 1) Improve service to the transit customer, 2) Increase system efficiency through coordination of specific functions and 3) Develop sub-regional coordination agreements between connecting agencies.

The FY 2006-07 STA Regional Discretionary Program totals \$25,429,000 and generally focuses on delivering TransLink®, the Regional Transit Information System (RTIS) and Lifeline services consistent with the Commission's Transportation 2030 Plan. In addition, funds are programmed to implement connectivity improvements at regional transit hubs and to support free transit on Spare-the-Air days. More detail about specific projects follows.

### **Transit Connectivity**

***Programmed to transit operators/MTC yet to be determined: \$2,500,000***

***Programmed to MTC: \$175,000***

***Programmed to AC Transit: \$175,000***

In April 2006, MTC adopted a Transit Connectivity Plan and incorporated its findings into the SB 1474 Transit Coordination Implementation Plan (Resolution 3055, Revised). In July 2006, MTC adopted the funding component of the Transit Connectivity Plan (Resolution 3771), which specifies the roles and responsibilities of MTC and the transit operators to pay for specific transit connectivity improvements at regional transit hubs. Consistent with the funding plan, MTC will invest \$10 million in wayfinding signage, real-time display and regional transit information cases (RTICs) at regional transit hubs. Of this amount, \$2.5 million is programmed in FY 2006-07. A series of performance reviews and ongoing monitoring activities will assess how each hub compares to the connectivity requirements and guidelines established in the Plan, and will become the basis for allocating these capital funds. In FY 2006-07, \$75,000 is devoted to hub performance reviews. The Transit Connectivity Plan also recommends a greater regional commitment to maintaining transit information in the RTICs. MTC plans to enter into an agreement with AC Transit to maintain RTICs on behalf of the region. In FY 2006-07, up to \$175,000 is programmed to AC Transit for these ongoing maintenance activities subject to execution of an agreement with MTC and the agreed-upon budget for the work. Lastly,

\$100,000 is programmed in support of distribution of regional transit information at regional transit hubs.

**Free Transit on Spare-the-Air Days**

***Programmed to MTC: \$5,400,000***

In FY 2006-07, MTC used regional CMAQ funds to cover the costs of providing up to three days of free transit in the region on Spare-the-Air days. The Spare-the-Air season heated up quickly with three consecutive Spare-the-Air days called in June, triggering the free transit promotion each day. In response, transit ridership increased significantly on most transit systems. Transit operators estimated a ridership increase of 10 percent or about 465,000 riders region wide over the 3-day period. Funds to support the free transit promotion are now exhausted, and the Spare-the-Air season has just begun. To take advantage of the extensive coordination and promotional efforts undertaken by MTC, the Air District and the transit operators and to encourage greater transit ridership and better air quality, \$5.4 million in STA funds will be programmed and allocated to MTC to extend the promotion to include up to three additional days of free transit on Spare-the-Air days.

**TransLink®**

***Programmed to MTC: \$5,835,000***

***Programmed to Golden Gate Transit: \$82,000***

***Programmed to transit operators yet to be determined: \$1,200,000***

MTC is the lead agency for the regional procurement and implementation of the TransLink® smart card fare payment system. The TransLink® procurement includes a limited demonstration, evaluation, regional implementation and on-going program coordination with the region's transit agencies.

The demonstration (Phase 1) concluded in August 2002. A subsequent evaluation found TransLink® to be a success technologically and in terms of customer satisfaction. Since the demonstration, all six charter agencies' policy boards have authorized participation in the regional implementation of TransLink® and the TransLink® Consortium was created to oversee TransLink® implementation. MTC issued Phase 2 Notice to Proceed for regional implementation in November 2003. Since then, the TransLink® Consortium, TransLink® Contractor and MTC have continued to make progress on project-related policy, technical, schedule and financial matters. AC Transit and Golden Gate Transit will be the first two transit operators to launch the system. They expect to launch at the end of this fiscal year or early next year.

In FY 2006-07, \$5,000,000 in STA funds will cover MTC's share of fixed and variable operating costs associated with the TransLink® project. An additional \$835,000 in STA funds will serve as local match to federal CMAQ funds programmed to TransLink®. These funds will cover a portion of the capital costs to design, build and maintain the TransLink® system. Also, \$1.2 million in STA funds will be programmed for transit operators as part of a fund swap. Transit operators will give MTC \$1.2 million in RM2 operating funds to offset the loss of STA funds that would have otherwise been spent on TransLink® operations. The fund swap will allow

transit operators to pay for important capital projects related to TransLink<sup>®</sup> implementation. A similar \$1.5 million fund swap was approved by the Commission in the FY 2005-06 STA program. While programmed, these STA funds will not be claimed by transit operators by June 30, 2006. As a result, MTC will need to reprogram these funds for transit operators in the future. Finally, \$82,000 will be programmed to the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transit District. Of this amount, \$7,000 covers grant administration services for a portion of TransLink<sup>®</sup> federal funds, and \$75,000 is for staff training in preparation for TransLink<sup>®</sup> deployment.

### **Regional Coordination Support**

***Programmed to MTC: \$1,601,000***

As in past years, FY 2006-07 STA funds will support a portion of MTC staff costs related to the TransLink<sup>®</sup> and Regional Transit Information System projects. Both of these projects are important transit coordination efforts under the SB 1474 Transit Coordination and Implementation Plan. This staffing need is in response to the high visibility of these projects and the need for continuous coordination with transit agencies to assure successful implementation.

### **Regional Transit Information System**

***Programmed to MTC: \$497,000***

In FY 2006-07, STA funds will serve as local match to federal STP and CMAQ funds for the Regional Transit Information System (RTIS). The RTIS is operated by MTC to collect, maintain, update and distribute region-wide transit service information for the benefit of the traveling public and MTC's transit partners. The three major components of the RTIS are:

- Regional transit trip planning system – The public can plan transit itineraries any time of the day or night using the internet-based TakeTransit<sup>SM</sup> Trip Planner. Transit agency call center staff also has access to the trip planner for assisting customers with trip planning.
- 511 Transit Website – The 511 Transit Website contains schedule, route, fare and map information for all transit agencies in the Bay Area as well as the TakeTransit<sup>SM</sup> Trip Planner. Access to the 511 Transit Website is provided through MTC's traveler information portal ([www.511.org](http://www.511.org)) where traffic, ridesharing and bicycle information is also available.
- Regional Transit Database (RTD) – The RTD is the central repository and data management system for comprehensive regional transit data, and is the repository for information provided via the 511 Transit Website and TakeTransit<sup>SM</sup> Trip Planner.

Aside from ongoing responsibilities to maintain and update the transit data needed for regional transit trip planning, MTC will begin efforts to replace the existing Transtar trip planning application in FY 2006-07. The existing application is written in an outdated programming language that is expensive to support and not designed for the high demands currently placed on the system. MTC will also continue expansion of an XML-based process it recently developed to automate the data exchange from the many large transit providers included in the RTIS. Finally, MTC will initiate some enhancements to transit information provided through 511 such as a personalized My511<sup>SM</sup> service.

### **Regional Transportation Marketing**

***Programmed to MTC:           \$39,000***

Marketing funds will be used to provide marketing, market research and support services for the 511 Traveler Information and TransLink® Programs, as well as to address other ad-hoc transit marketing needs. Consistent with the findings of the 511 Strategic Plan, the program will maintain its focus on increasing and sustaining usage of the 511 phone number and website (511.org) as well as developing a better understanding of how customers use the 511 system. As TransLink® is deployed on individual transit agencies in FY 2006-07, the program will promote the TransLink® card to transit riders to increase market share of TransLink® compared to other fare media. STA funds will serve as local match to federal CMAQ funds for Regional Transportation Marketing.

### **Regional Operations Support Contingency**

***Programmed to MTC:           \$483,000***

These STA funds would be used in the event of unforeseen project needs or operating shortfalls with respect to MTC's regional operations projects such as TransLink® or the Regional Transit Information System. Unspent contingency funds will either be returned to the STA program at the end of FY 2006-07 for future reallocation, or retained (in which case they will offset next year's contingency request).

### **Regional Paratransit Program**

***Programmed to MTC:           \$75,000***

In FY 2006-07, \$75,000 in STA funds will support a 'lead agency' for the Regional Paratransit Program. This approach is consistent with the goals of the Transit Coordination and Implementation Plan, which endorses the concept of reimbursement for services provided by a Lead Agency on behalf of other operators. The lead agency is the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (CCCTA). CCCTA will coordinate paratransit operational activities such as:

- Oversight of the Paratransit Eligibility Program and Regional Eligibility Database, and delivery of the Paratransit Technical Assistance Program through a consultant; and
- Liaison between the PTCC Accessibility Committee and MTC, including reporting on the status of activities and preparing an annual budget for services rendered.

Each month, CCCTA will request reimbursement from MTC for a one-twelfth share of Regional Paratransit Program funds and provide a progress report summarizing work performed.

### **Transit Coordination Project Audits**

***Programmed to MTC:           \$200,000***

MTC will contract with an audit firm to conduct contract closeout audits, contract compliance audits, and other agreed upon procedure type audits for its transit-related projects. There may also be contracts that require an audit before retention is released.

### **Transit Capital Inventory/Asset Tool**

***Programmed to MTC:           \$150,000***

STA funds will serve as partial local match to \$1 million in FTA Section 5307 funds to improve the region's transit capital inventory. The draft project scope includes:

- Assess current transit properties' practices for maintaining transit capital inventory data, and establish a regional standard for maintaining and storing the data;
- Assist transit operators to comply with the regional standard through procurement of asset management software, consultant assistance, or other technical expertise;
- Develop an internet interface for submitting transit capital data to MTC so that it can be used for various modeling tools, including Finance Plan; and
- Investigate alternative program and planning modeling tools.

MTC staff is working with the Transit Finance Working Group on this project.

### **Regional Transit Demographic Study**

***Programmed to MTC: \$100,000***

To address gaps in availability of consistent rider socio-demographic data, STA funds will be used to conduct a demographic survey of the region's transit passengers in FY 2006-07.

Approximately 15,000 of the region's transit passengers will be surveyed in order to collect information about passengers' age, income, gender and ethnicity. MTC staff is working with transit operators to add some additional questions to the survey as well.

### **Facilitation and General Planning Studies**

***Programmed to claimants yet to be determined: \$150,000***

These funds will allow MTC to respond to regional or subregional planning needs or requests as they arise throughout FY 2006-07. For example, a study may be completed that recommends additional follow-up, a partnership opportunity may arise that benefits MTC's regional coordination objectives or a particularly difficult regional issue may emerge that requires consulting assistance to forge consensus.

### **Legislative Consultant**

***Programmed to MTC: \$197,000***

STA funds will be used for MTC's contract for legislative consultant work in Washington, D.C. The legislative consultant performs important advocacy and reconnaissance services related to transit on behalf of the region.

### **Lifeline Transportation**

***Programmed to claimants yet to be determined: \$6,570,000***

As the successor to the Low-Income Flexible Transportation (LIFT) Program, MTC's Lifeline Transportation Program seeks to improve the mobility of low-income individuals. In FY 2006-07, staff proposes to program \$6.6 million for various Lifeline service and planning activities. This actually represents a reprogramming of \$5.6 million in STA funds programmed in FY 2005-06 (which will not be allocated by June 30, 2006) and an additional \$1 million in STA funds for FY 2006-07 consistent with MTC's earlier funding commitment to the LIFT Program.

Under agreement with MTC, individual county Congestion Management Agencies (CMAs) have assumed responsibility for awarding Lifeline funds. Subject to program guidelines, each CMA will issue a 'call for projects' in the spring of 2006 and recommend Lifeline funding priorities in summer 2006. The Commission will be briefed on the results of the project selection process,

and a request to the Commission to allocate STA funds to particular Lifeline project sponsors will be made in fall 2006.